

Starting a business in the Town of Bluffton



Why is a business license required?

The Town of Bluffton requires every business operating within the Town Limits to pay an annual license fee. This fee, known as a Business License Fee, is required to be paid by each business generating revenue in the Town of Bluffton.

Where do I get a license?

A business license application may be obtained at the Business License Department at Bluffton Town Hall located at 20 Bridge Street or online at www.townofbluffton.sc.gov.

How much does it cost?

An initial flat fee for a new business license must be paid before a business opens. This fee is determined by type and location. A renewal business license fee is based on the annual gross revenue of the business for the previous year.

How long does a business license last?



All business licenses expire December 31st of each year. Renewals must be paid no later than April 15th for all businesses.

Other Requirements?

Depending upon the type of business you start or purchase or where you locate, other types of accounts or other permits may be required to get started, including:

- * Serving prepared food: Hospitality Tax Account (2%)
- * Renting your home or condo/villa: Accommodations Tax Account (3%)

Where does my license fee go?

It goes to the General Fund which provides administrative services, police protection, planning services and judicial services, and it helps local government strive to become a better community.

ABOUT BLUFFTON

Bluffton recently expanded its territory by 32,000 acres through annexation of primarily four tracts of land, becoming the fifth largest town in South Carolina (by land area). These annexations have created a challenge for government officials and citizens to preserve the Town's rich historical heritage and character.

The Town limits consist of the original one-square mile (Old Town), four primary annexed tracts of land (Shults Tract, Palmetto Bluff Tract, Buckwalter Tract, and Jones Estate), and a number of auxiliary annexations (Bluffton Village, Village at Verdier, Shults-Goethe Road Area, Simmonsville-Buck Island Road, Belfair Towne Village, Westbury Park Commercial, Sheridan Park, Plantation Business Park, Bluffton Commons and Willow Run).

Note:

The portion of SC Hwy. 46 between the New River Bridge and the four-way stop sign in Bluffton's Old Town is known as May River Road. Furthermore, the portion of SC Hwy. 46 between US 278 and the four-way stop sign in Old Town is called Bluffton Road.

Additionally, US 278 is known as Fording Island Road between the Beaufort/Jasper County line and the bridge to Hilton Head Island.

The Bluffton Township Fire Department conducts routine fire safety inspections in existing commercial buildings to eliminate unsafe conditions. Contact: (843) 705-5355

REQUIREMENTS

State Tax Commission:

New businesses should contact the SC Tax Commission to determine legal requirements for reporting, applying for a tax ID number, and certificates. If operating a retail business, a State Retail License must be obtained.
Contact: (803) 898-5788. www.sctax.org

Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040 or www.irs.gov

SC Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation: (803) 896-4300 or www.llr.state.sc.us

Health Department Inspections: Any food-related business, such as a meat market, restaurant, or grocery store, must comply with health standards before getting a business license.
Beaufort County Health Dept: (843) 757-6441

Department of Labor: (803) 896-4300

SC Employment Security Commission: (803) 737-2400

SC Department of Revenue Alcohol Beverage Licensing: (803) 898-5864

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

The Chamber of Commerce: (843) 785-3673

SCORE: (843) 785-7107

University of SC Small Business Development Center: (843) 208-8259